THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Being vital defence production units, security in Ordnance Factories is even in normal circumstances tight. The degree of alertness does vary depending upon assessments of the prevailing situation and has been heightened because of the present situation.

Procurement of Helicopter rings during 1992-96

2467. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had procured 820 helicopter rings during 1992-96;

(b) if so, the total value thereof;

(c) whether these rings are still lying unused; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against those responsible for such an avoidable procurement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total value of the rings procured was Rs. 1.70 crores.

(c) and (d) Presently, some of the rings are held in stock, which will be consumed during the course of normal overhaul, These rings are required for use on MI-8/MI-17 helicopters and they will be consumed over the next few years.

Resettlement of widows of Kargil Martyrs

†2468. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the work pertaining to resettlement of Kargil martyrs' widows;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total number of widows resettled and the amount spent on this work; and

(c) if not, the number of widows yet to be settled and the reasons for delay in this work?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As a measure of rehabilitation of widows/ next of kin of Kargil Martyrs, they have been paid *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 10 lakhs each and have been sanctioned liberalised family pension equal to the last pay drawn by the deceased soldier on completion of necessary legal requirements. No separate budget provision has been made for resettlement of widows of Kargil martyrs.

The widows of Kargil Martyrs have also been given an amount of Rs. 5 lakhs for housing and Rs. 1 lakh per child or Rs. 2 lakhs per family for education of children from the National Defence Fund.

Upgradation of MIG Bis Aircraft

2469. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government sanctioned upgradation of 125 MIG Bis aircraft at a cost of more than Rs. 2000 crores in January, 1996;